AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1855 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 36, NO. 44

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of interest to the trade union movement.

GET OUT THE VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

Green Declares Union Label Proof of Labor Co-operation

Opens Big Exhibition At St. Louis With Nationwide Address

St. Louis, Mo.—The union label, shop card and button constitute the American consumers' greatest insurance that the products they buy are the finest in the world and produced under standards unmatched by any other nation.

This was the declaration of AFL President William Green at the opening here of the AFL Union Label and Industrial Exhibition in ceremonies broadcast over a nation-wide radio hookup.

Expansion of the free enterprise system, and less dependence upon government, is the key to American prosperity, Mr. Green told the nation.

"We in the American Federation of Labor," he declared, "are determined that free enterprise shall survive in America because it has brought to the people of our country a higher standard of living than is enjoyed in any other nation on earth.

"But the free enterprise system is not a one-way street. Labor must be assured of its freedom, as well as industry, in order to make the system work effectively. The two are mutually interdependent. One cannot exist or make any progress without the other. The sooner we all recognize the truth and abide by it, the sooner lasting prosperity and industrial peace can come to America."

The union label, Mr. Green declared, is an assurance to the consumer that the products he buys "are made in America by union workers under decent union standards."

Gov. Phil M. Donnelly, who proclaimed the opening day of the exhibition, October 29, "Missouri Day," and Mayor A. P. Kaufmann of St. Louis, who set aside the entire week as "Union Label Week," participated in the ceremonies. Both extolled the standards established by union workmanship.

Mr. Green's address, in part, follows:

"These ceremonies mark the opening of the Union Label and Industrial Exhibition of the American Federation of Labor, here in St. Louis, an exhibition of progressive efficiency, modern ingenuity and masterful workmanship which are unmatched anywhere in the world.

"In the transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy, many interesting developments have occurred. Initiating shortages of consumer goods persist and troublesome industrial disputes are still causing interruptions of production. The American people are becomingly patient with these delays.

"Labor shares their concern. The workers of this country are anxious to have the cost of living stabilized at a reasonable level. They are eager for their contribution to full production by working steadily at good jobs for wages which will enable them to meet necessary family expenses and save a little for a rainy day.

"I predict that most of our present economic troubles will disappear once the difficult period of readjustment is ended. We will then be able to put our economy on an even keel, steer a straight course and sail for full speed ahead on production.

"The coming of that day can be expedited by the proper kind of a breeze between labor and management. I am convinced that the time has arrived when industrial leaders in the trade union movement must stand on their own feet and solve their own problems. It is time for them to adopt a cooperative action, instead of running to the Government for help. Many of our experiences should have taught us that Government intervention leads only to Government control, and surely, we have learned by now that we need less Government control, not more, if the American free enterprise system is to survive.

"Labor's willingness to give constructive cooperation in the areas which are fair to their workers is perhaps most strikingly illustrated by the union label. The union label on a product means that it is made in American factories under decent union standards and under clean and sanitary conditions. The same is true of the union shop card and button with regard to service industries.

"We urge all American workers and the public at large, wherever the AFL union label before making purchases and to look for the union shopcard and button before hiring services. In this way we provide concrete proof of our cooperation in cooperative employment.

"I hope that all of you who can be with us with the Union Label and Industrial Exhibition to see for yourselves the high quality of union label merchandise and the miracles of modern industry on display here. The union label standard for everything that is fine and decent and constructive in the industrial life of the nation. The American Federation of Labor will never rest until everything made in America carries that great symbol of American progress—the Union Label."

New York Ship-Truck Tie-Ups End As Companies Grant Wage Raises

New York City.—The most serious transportation tie-up ever experienced here came to an end when the shipping and general trucking strikes were brought to a quiet end and picket lines were withdrawn.

The trucking strike came to a virtual end in its 58th day when holdout trucker operators broke ranks and rushed to sign agreements with the AFL teamster unions on the basis of the Bohack wage award of 81 cents an hour increase. Operators' terminals were scenes of intense activity as they prepared to get their trucks rolling again.

The 25-day tie-up of 1,181 vessels in Atlantic and Gulf ports ended when the membership of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, ratified an agreement reached here between union officials and ship operators. Pickets were immediately removed from the dock-side of 410 ships here and there were promises that the vessels would be moving within a day or two.

In the truck strike, union estimates were that about 1,100 men employed by 110 firms were still idle, but Theodore Kheel, deputy director of Mayor William O'Dwyer's division on labor relations, announced that in so far as the division was concerned, the "back of the strike has been broken." Mr. Kheel added that "it is our expectation that the few employers who are still unsigned will do so."

Officials of the three trucking unions involved—Locals 807, 282 and 816, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, American Federation of Labor affiliate, passed a busy day signing wage contracts and sending settlement word along to idle union members. Among those signing contracts with Local 807 were two of the biggest trucking concerns in the city, the United States Trucking Corporation, which had 350 trucks tied up, and the Motor Haulage Company, with 400 trucks.

Number of Eligible Voters Is Estimated at 59,669,656

Washington, D. C.—Registrations of new voters in many key States, such as New York and California, indicate that the number of potential voters for November will be 59,669,656, the National survey by the Associated Press revealed today.

Based upon this total of eligibles, State officials and party leaders expressed belief that the total vote would surpass 56,400,000.

Such a turnout would be better than 59 per cent of the eligibles. It also would be more than 7,000,000 increase over the actual total Congressional vote in 1942, the last off-year election, when 52 percent of the estimated eligibles cast 49,719,138 ballots.

Every State except three reported an estimated vote this year higher than in 1942. Georgia, Idaho in Missouri, North Dakota and Utah believed the vote in those States would be slightly under 1942.

California and New York reported the largest estimates of increased voting in excess of the actual vote four years ago. The increase figured for Pennsylvania was around 500,000. Massachusetts nearly 200,000; Minnesota and Wisconsin over 200,000; North Carolina and Ohio over 200,000; Oklahoma over 250,000; Washington over 350,000.

Substantial voters this year—persons 21 years of age and over—were estimated by the Census Bureau at 91,634,472 as of July 1, 1946, an increase of nearly 2,500,000 over July 1, 1944. It was believed that the total of several hundred thousand in Georgia and South Carolina where the voting age has been lowered to 18.

But millions do not take the trouble to qualify. Thus, only 54 percent of the potential voters went to the polling booths in the last Presidential election.

Most States do not have official registrations for the State as a whole. Election officials in those states estimates small but e. few cases.

California, however, reported actual figures as those of 4,383,262 eligible, with the Democrats continuing to outnumber the Republicans 2,243,720 to 1,637,246 for the Republicans.

New York's registration was slightly over 10,000,000 as compared with 8,173,465 in 1942.

Independent Peddlers of Soft Drinks Held Fully Subject to Unionization

New York City.—Members of a union representing truck drivers for independent dealers of soft drink beverages, and such independents are themselves subject to unionization under a ruling handed down by the National Labor Relations Board of the Second Department here.

By the terms of this finding, the union is entitled a stemporary injunction signed last June 15 by Supreme Court Justice Algernon L. Nova in a representative action filed by more than 300 distributors who sell mainly to the Brewery Local 342, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL), and the Pure-Borroughs Carbonated Beverage Manufacturers Assn.

The peddlers are proper subjects for unionization, the court ruled. The members of the union cannot be compelled by injunction to load the trucks of non-union peddlers, or to continue employment with an employer who persists in dealing with such non-union peddlers.

In their motion papers, the plaintiffs contended that they, and those operated their own trucks and had no helpers and, as self-employed individuals, did not have to be members of a union to operate their business. They urged that the union, by its benefits from an association with the union.

The union, through its attorney Leo Rosenthal, denied that the union to the peddlers constituted a threat to their livelihood or to good working conditions of its membership. It further charged that the peddlers were in unfair competition with distributors who were union members and also sold to the retail trade.

"There is no basis for any such injunction," the decision continued. "Even if the plaintiffs in the state action contain the contention of the plaintiffs that since each conducts a 'one-man business' and employs no helpers, a 'labor dispute' does not exist within the meaning of Section 876a of the Civil Practice Act, it does not necessarily follow that the plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction."

Citing an opinion by the court of Appeals, the court added that "individual truck drivers, if the members of any union may at any time refuse to work, because machinery is employed by non-union peddlers and may strike in so doing."

The court declined to dismiss the complaint on grounds that it was broad and would require study before the entire issue could be settled.

Musicians Get 50% Raise In Transcription Contract

Chicago.—A 50 percent wage increase for musicians engaged in making transcriptions was announced by Herman D. Kenin, president of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL). The new rates are retroactive to October 20.

The increase follows by about a week the raise of 87½ percent granted to musicians who make popular and symbolic recordings.

Mr. Petrillo said that representatives of 13 companies signed the new contract in New York.

CAFETERIA WORKERS GAIN

New York.—For the first time west of the Rockies, cafeteria workers have won the 5-day, 40-hour week with provision pay for the sixth day's work. The gain is registered in a contract signed by 26 laborers of Local 302, Hotel and Restaurantmens Employes Alliance (AFL) and the Affiliated Restaurants, Inc., which employs 1,000 workers in 14th New York cafeterias.

PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING INCREASED BY $165,000,000

Washington, D. C.—A budget estimate just released by President Truman states that Federal spending for public works during the fiscal year will exceed the $6,000,000 limit by set August 1 by $165,000,000.

Lilienthal to Head Atomic Commission

Washington, D. C.—Announcement was made by President Truman of the appointment of T.V. Lilienthal, David E. Lilienthal as chairman of the new Atomic Energy Commission.

The announcement was warmly welcomed by members of the American Federation of Labor, in view of the fact that Mr. Lilienthal, throughout his service as chief of the Tennessee Valley Authority, had always demonstrated a deep interest in operation with the AFL and a deep understanding of labor's problems.

Mr. Lilienthal was one of the chief authors of the Black Department's consultants' plan for international control of atomic energy.

Others named to the commission were William W. Waymack, Dr. Robert F. Bacher, L. Strauss and S. T. Pike.

Gordon R. Clapp, general manager of TVA since 1939, was named chairman of that agency to succeed Mr. Lilienthal.

SOFT COAL PACT TO BE REVIEWED IN PARLEY NOV. 1

Washington, D. C.—Fears of a new soft coal strike November 1 faded with announcement by United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis that Government officials had served his demand for opening discussions of the present contract on that date.

Though Interior Secretary J. A. Krug earlier had declined to enter into new discussions of the contract under which the Government is operating the mines, he wired Mr. Lewis:

"Replying to your letter of October 21, I am requesting that you and your representatives meet with Coal Mines Administrator Ezra Taft Benson and his associates November 1 or any other date agreeable to you."

It is proper Mr. Lewis agreed to meet the Government officials on the assumption that the contract would be renegotiated.

Commenting on the situation at a White House press Conference, President Truman expressed confidence there would be no strike. His attitude left Washington officials in belief that the Government had decided to throw the entire contract open to discussion.

Wide speculation was apparent in the Capital as to the extent to which the Government will be willing to discuss a new contract. Some sources indicated that full discussion would not be opened for possible revision, but other sources declared nothing short of full discussion would meet the union, which has charged Mr. Krug with violations of the present agreement.

Printers Vote Million-a-Year Strike Reserve

Chicago.—Unofficial returns of a referendum vote taking benefits among the 80,000 members of the International Typographical Union (AFL) show the membership favors increasing themselves $1,000,000 annually for conduct of strikes if necessary and for increasing benefits for strikers.

This was one of 15 propositions adopted at the ITU convention in Miami in August, all of which had to be put to a referendum by the membership as amendments to the constitution.

The defense-fund proposition was adopted by Local 16 in a vote of 2,968 to 1,881. Provision was made that a fund of $500,000 be maintained at all times in the ITU, through the levy of 10 cents per week per member on net earnings of all active ITU members, for three months after the fund reaches the minimum.

At the convention Don Hurd, ITU secretary-treasurer, estimated that the assessment would equal $1,000,000 annually if the strike fund remained below $500,000 because of benefits paid to strikers.

The new strike-benefit plan would increase weekly strike benefits of married members to 60 percent of their average weekly wage, and single members to 40 percent. Present benefits are 40 percent for the ITU member who is married and 30 percent for the member who is single.

MONSANTO ST. LOUIS PLANT GRANTS AFL UNION RAISE

St. Louis, Mo.—A settlement of differences has been reached between the Monsanto Chemical Co. and the AFL Chemical Workers' Union whereby the union won a wage increase and "union security."

Credit for settlement of a long period of unsatisfactory negotiations between the company and the union is given to Father Louis J. Brown of St. Louis University, this priest, through patient efforts, finally got the parties together on a settlement which included both "union security" and an 8-cent an hour raise.

AFL Rejects Partisan Pleas, Urges Labor to Elect Friends

Green Asks Emphatic Rout Of All Workers' Enemies

Washington, D. C.—An urgent appeal to every member of the AFL to vote in the November elections and to support candidates friendly to the cause of labor was contained in a letter sent by President William Green to all State Federations, City Central bodies and directly affiliated unions.

Warning that reactionary forces in Congress plan to press for enactment of "vicious, antilabor legislation," Mr. Green said:

"If those who voted for the notorious Case Bill and other antilabor legislation at the last session of Congress are reelected they will interpret their victory as approval of their votes for antilabor legislation.

"We can defeat restrictive legislation if we elect those who are opposed to such antilabor legislation. We can defeat it if we send back to Congress those who voted for antilabor legislation.

"Your interests are at stake. The question as to whether you remain free members of free trade unions, or whether you will be hamstrung and fettered by restrictive legislation, robbing you of the right to strike against your employer, must be determined by your vote on November 5th. You alone can decide this question by your votes. Study the records of candidates for Congress. Vote against those who are against you and vote for those who will stand by you and with you, regardless of party affiliation."

Arguments of Major Parties

DEMOCRATS

(Robert E. Hannegan, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, on the guest of AFL President William Green on a nation-wide radio hook-up devoted to labor issues, Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, in the following address, appraises his views of why the American worker should support the Republican ticket in the approaching election.)

Every two years at this time, the Republican Party tells us that what is the greatest friend it has been of the working man. Yes, just at this time its spokesmen regularly inform the working man of the many things for which we can thank the Republicans.

Today I want to mention a few of the things that labor can thank the Republican Party for.

A wage-price stabilization program to protect the American people from inflation is the foundation and principal effect by the Democratic Administration.

That program has been torpedoed. The destruction was accomplished under the leadership of the Republican Party in the Seventy-ninth Congress.

As a result, today labor can thank the Republican Party for higher living prices, and for higher costs all down the line of life's necessities.

Unemployment by the Republican victory over price control, the large owners of property in many parts of the country are willing to cut wages to end rent control. To Republican prices they would now add Republican rents.

Actually, higher prices and higher rents are the equivalent of a major wage cut. When the wage cut, the working man can thank the Republican Party, which is always labor's friend at election time.

This was the first step: Break price control. Then when the next time for prices is the sky itself, take away from labor its right of collective bargaining so that labor cannot keep up with prices. That is the second step. And already we are hearing demands for legislation that would make it impossible for the working man to seek an adjustment of wages through strikes.

Where are these demands coming from? Who wants to end collective bargaining? Is it the labor leaders who take away from the working man his only protection? No, it is the employer—the right of collective bargaining—labor can thank the Republican Party.

Yes, labor's great friends—at election time—are on record against the Wagner Act. Oh, they don't want to kill the act, but they will not withstand them. These Republicans only want to amend it a little—just enough to wipe out the right of collective bargaining.

If that could be accomplished, you would have the ideal Republican combination—Republican prices without a ceiling over them and Republican wages without a floor under them. Then labor's great friend, the Republican Party, would be happy.

What is the answer? Is it to surrender the standard of living of the American working man? Is it to add billions of dollars before millions of people? Or is it to elect a Congress that will fight to maintain and improve that standard?

Is it to re-elect the Republican members of the Seventy-ninth Congress who sabotaged stabilization and who now are ready to open up their attack on rent control?

Or is labor's answer the replacement of those Republicans and men and women of the Democratic Party, the party that established the right of collective bargaining and that protected it—and will continue to fight—to keep prices and rents at fair levels?

Yes. With a keen appreciation of what has been done by the Republicans, the working man will go to the polls on November 5 and vote Democratic.

REPUBLICANS

(As the guest of AFL President William Green on a nation-wide radio hook-up devoted to labor issues, Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, in the following address, appraises his views of why the American worker should support the Republican ticket in the approaching election.)

The Republican Party stands unalterably for the American enterprise system of free labor and free management—the system which has made America the standard of living the highest in the world. The Republican Party is unalterably opposed to the efforts of the Communistic and radical elements in this country to weaken and destroy our representative form of government and to make America over into some sort of totalitarian or socialized state.

The officials of the American Federation of Labor are fully appreciative of the fact that without a free and representative form of government we cannot for long have free labor; and that both the liberty and dignity of the individual will be destroyed if the day of free labor we have had conclusive proof that the Moscow dictatorship which enslaves South Russia is seeking to control the results of the coming November election and bring about the defeat of Republican candidates for Congress.

In an impudent English language broadcast to Radio Moscow last Friday night, Americans were urged to elect only candidates who were endorsed by the CIO—Political Action Committee. A Soviet spokesman insisted that the election of a Republican Congress would "deal a blow to democracy in America." Of course he used the word "democracy" in the Communist sense. Under the Soviet system of so-called democracy there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, no freedom of collective bargaining, no freedom to strike or any freedom of thought. That is the kind of democracy that the Soviet government wants to see established in the United States. As the best means to obtain it they are supporting the Administration-approved candidates endorsed by the CIO—Political Action Committee.

The people of America do not have to go to Moscow for evidence that the Democrat Administration now in power is hostile to free labor. Time and on occasions—in 1944, 1945 and again in 1946—President Truman has asked the Congress for power to draft workers for forced labor. It is inconceivable to me that American labor will support an administration which has sponsored such proposals violative of every principle of constitutional government and every decent instinct of the American people.

The Republican Party came into being to abolish human slavery. It has never departed from that principle and it never will. Economic slavery means human slavery and political slavery. Through a resolution recently adopted by the federation's annual convention and supported by legislation, we must elect progressive and forward-looking members of Congress from both parties.

If urge every qualified American citizen to make certain to go to the polls on Election Day and vote for candidates whose record shows they have the best interests of our country at heart."

Must Weigh the Record Of Every Candidate, Green Tells Unions

Washington.—Playing host to the leaders of the Republican and Democratic National Committees over a nation-wide radio hook-up Saturday, October 26, AFL President William Green sounded a strong nonpartisan appeal to American workers to elect their friends and defeat their enemies in the approaching national elections.

Voting a straight party ticket "may be smart politics" he said, but it "does not make for good government" and is highly injurious to the worker, in view of the fact that the views of candidates range from "extreme conservatism to extreme liberalism."

Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Robert E. Hannegan, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, spoke for the major parties. Each assured labor that its interests would best be served by voting a straight Republican or Democratic ticket.

However, though he welcomed the opportunity to permit the leaders of the major parties to present their platforms as they effect labor issues, Mr. Green sounded a word of caution with reference to the use of the ballot. People who are friendly to the cause of labor, he said, should be elected without regard to party label, and those who are know, it to be unfriendly should be emphatically rejected.

"To make democracy effective," Mr. Green said, "it is vital that the American people vote and that they vote intelligently. It should be emphasized that in presenting the campaign arguments of the chairman of the Republican National and Democratic Committees, the American Federation of Labor does not assume responsibility for their statements, nor does it necessarily endorse their views.

"Political leaders, from time immemorial, have exhorted the public to vote a straight party ticket. This may be smart politics, but it does not make for good government. Both major parties are sponsoring candidates for Congress whose records and whose views range from extreme conservatism to extreme liberalism. The voter cannot determine their views merely by their party label. He must judge by their records.

"The American Federation of Labor has compiled the voting records of all members of Congress on legislation of direct concern to every wage earner in the nation. We have distributed these voting records to all our State and city federations of labor, so that they can be given the widest publicity at the local level. By consulting these records, the workers of every community can tell whether congressional candidates have been friendly or unfriendly to labor.

"The nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor is based on the principle that the workers should elect the friends of labor and defeat its enemies, regardless of party affiliation or label.

"This year, it is more important than ever before that we elect a Congress responsive to labor's cause and responsive to its needs. As part of that effort we must defeat candidates who are prejudiced against labor and hostile to trade union objectives.

"The enemies of labor are marshaling their forces for an all-out drive in the next Congress to bring about their subjection. Labor's friends also would restrict the freedoms of American workers and destroy their trade unions. Labor will need many friends in Congress to checkmate these reactionary forces. Our only reliable account on support from members of both political parties. We must be alive to the issue.

"Further more, the American Federation of Labor intends to sponsor a positive legislative program for the enactment of adequate housing legislation, for unemployment insurance and social security system and for the establishment of national health insurance. And whatever else may be the legislation, we must elect progressive and forward-looking members of Congress from both parties.

"I urge every qualified American citizen to make certain to go to the polls on Election Day and vote for candidates whose record shows they have the best interests of our country at heart."

U. S. MERCHANT TONNAGE EXCEEDS ENTIRE WORLD

Washington, D. C.—According to figures released by the Maritime Commission, the United States has more merchant ship tonnage than all of the rest of the world combined. This Government and private companies owned more than 56,000,000 tons on June 30 and of this total approximately 4,- 650,000 tons were being operated under foreign flags. On this same date, foreign countries and concerns owned about 45,540,000 tons.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives more accurate and efficient interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the Federation's policies and Federal labor and economic policies, as a benefit to its trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

GET OUT THE VOTE!
ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

Small Holds Pay Raises Warranted If Limited to Reasonable Levels

Washington, D. C.—Soaring living costs have warranted, in many cases, increases in wage levels, and, if held to reasonable levels, they will not upset the nation's economy, Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small told a meeting.

Discussing the climb in the cost of living in his production report for September, Mr. Small said:

"Since most prices have increased to new all-time highs following decontrols, the cost of living index is likely to approach 150, which was the peak reached in June, 1920, in the inflation which followed World War I.

"However, the cost of living started from a much lower level prior to World War II and therefore the increase was much greater then than in the period during and following World War II."

Mr. Small said that in view of the rising prices of many commodities and the accelerated removal of controls, he recognized the need for many wage adjustments.

"If they are not too drastic," he said of possible forthcoming wage demands, "if they don't want to get the peak of the thing, if they will accept something reasonable, we can make it without too drastic a price reaction."

The OPA Administrator felt that many industries would break down prices despite added costs for fear of pricing themselves out of a market for their goods. He also expressed hope that there would soon be a "sagging off price" in such essentials as food and clothing. The development of a "leap-frog" of as between wages and prices would be catastrophic to the economy, he declared.

The monthly production report included an estimate that inventories rose by $1,100,000,000 in August, making the June through August increase of $2,900,000,000 the largest for any three-month period on record. Yet the rate of stock to sales shipments actually declined as a result of the sharp rise in shipments at close to peak level by prewar standards. About half of the increase was in inventories of durable goods, he said, adding that:

"Part of the increase," Mr. Small said, "reflected the rise in prices rather than an actual increase in the amount of goods. If inventories continue the present rate of increase this can become a danger signal to the economy."

The production chief challenged predictions of a substantial recession next year, and declared that many forecasts seemed fear and retrenchment and brought a state of mind where we would "talk ourselves into" depression.

Placing his faith in the hunger for goods of all kinds, "the healthy appetite of a growing nation," plus the maintenance of over-all employment and full production, Mr. Small said:

"All industries cannot be expected to bring production up to current demands simultaneously. Some industries may overshoot demand and reconcile, but these recessions should not be taken as signs of over-all recession. For other industries will still have unfilled needs for the labor and resources thus released."

"Many of these items," Mr. Small added, "I don't think it will amount to much."

In support of his views, Mr. Small reported that in September industry maintained production at close to peak levels and produced the equivalent of August output despite three fewer working days.

In the consumer durable goods field, sewing machines rose 31 percent over the September of the previous month, vacuum cleaners, 12 percent; refrigerators, 7 percent; and electric irons, 5 percent. Slight declines in the output of washing machines, electric and gas ranges, and radios, were offset to the smaller number of working days.

Production of building materials not only maintained their high levels of August, but in many cases exceeded them, particularly cast iron soil pipe, hardwood flooring, warm air furnaces and boilers.

Automobiles, after making sharp gains in August and September, remained unchanged in September.

Mr. Small foresaw little hope for the Truman "Disease to Please" and the rest of the year as a result of the shortage of steel which "permeates the whole economy."

HARRIMAN, SYNDER SCOFF AT RUMORS OF EARLY DEPRESSION

Washington, D. C.—Secretaries W. Averell Harriman of the Commerce Department and John W. Snyder of the Treasury, joined Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small in advising Americans against talking themselves into a depression at a time when the future appears bright.

Harriman, in a New York address, said fears that a "boom" would follow the time when the war-caused backlog of demand is met are based on "unreasoning defeatism."

Snyder called widespread talk of approaching bad times "bad psychology."

"We have the knowledge and ability," Harriman told his audience, "to handle our affairs in such a way as to maintain a high level of employment with an expanding economy."

Citing current business condition reports, Snyder told servicemen:

"It is bad psychology to be continually talking about depression and recession when we have all the elements for a continued prosperous period."

Secretary Snyder denied the denials of a recent rumor that the value of the dollar would be cheapened in terms of gold. He told his press conference "nothing like that is contemplated."

Pay Controls Reported Slated For Junkpile After Election

Washington, D. C.—Reports gaining credence here and emanating from usually well-informed sources indicate that wage controls and the Wage Stabilization Board will be dumped soon after the election.

Discussing the situation as it appears at this time, an article in the Washington Post said:

"As forces combine to end the levistages of wartime Federal regulation of pay scales has not yet been completely learned. But many well-informed public officials indicated their expectation that the process of scrapping will go into a dispersion at a time when the future appears bright.

"The question of the future of the WSB and its functions was raised on October 9, when the two industry members of the board submitted their resignations. In the interval since then President Truman, Reconversion Director Snyder and their chief advisers have changed their minds repeatedly on the problem.

"At one point the President was prepared to announce the end of controls along with his decision lifting price controls on meat. Other determinations have been to decentralize the board as an all-public body, or to find other industry members to replace those who were resigning.

"Finally, however, the Administration agreed to take no action until after election. In the meantime the two industry members' resignations were not acted upon they have continued to serve.

"It is generally conceded, however, that the WSB functions now with only a sort of twilight life, unable to maintain controls in line with the formal stabilization policy against the demands of any determined and powerful union.

"The situation is such, it is conceded, that with the accelerating growth of removing price controls, there remains no hope of keeping wage control and accordingly, they will be removed entirely.

"This will mean that as major industrial contracts come up for renewal, the prewar freedom of collective bargaining will be largely restored.

"Such residual legal functions as the WSB has—rulings on wages in industries owned and operated by the Government, and on cuts in wages below the 1941 level—may be transferred to other agencies once the WSB is deactivated. These functions could be vested in the Labor Department or in the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, it was suggested."

Washington Strike In 18 Major Hotels Ended Under White House Peace Plan

Washington, D. C.—Hotel workers in the nation's capital ended a 20-day walkout as 18 of the city's leading hostelries under terms of a settlement reached at a White House conference.

The strike-end plan, developed in the course of three days of White House conferences, provides:

A 5-cent hourly increase for tipped service employees, from 42 to 47 cents more per hour for non-tip-receiving employees, and a $30 floor on weekly wages. The current minimum is $34.40 for kitchen help.

One week's vacation after one year, two weeks after three years. The old contract gave employees one week's vacation after two years, two weeks' vacation after five years.

Elimination of the split shift. Under the split-shift system, which 60 workers in local hotels were on call for 12 hours while only working four.

Banquet waiters are to get 90 percent of gratuities instead of 75 percent as now.

Discharges, before becoming final, to be subject to review by a grievance committee, sought by the union, will be "further" considered by the Labor Department.

The new contract is retroactive to October 1, giving workers 11 days of back pay at the higher scale. It will run for one year.

The break in the crippling strike, which virtually emptied Washington's leading hotels and set the few remaining guests to doing household chores, came dramatically shortly after noon October 31.

Two days before the settlement was reached leading churchmen of the Capital took a strong stand with the hotel workers and charged at a meeting that the hotel managements had engaged in a lockout against their employes.

Addressing more than 400 members and guests of the Washington Chapter of the Union for Democratic Action, Rev. Francis R. McPeek, director of Social Welfare for the Washington Federation of Churches, declared that the Washington Hotel Association had failed "to bargain collective bargaining in good faith," and that the strike in 18 leading hotels constituted a "lockout."

The Rev. George C. Higgins, assistant director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, declared the hotel issue of the day was "clearly an attempt to weaken the unions "for some future purpose."

Speaking as a member of the Catholic Church, Father Higgins said:

"We are in favor of strong unions and I would like to see every worker in this country belong to a union."

Three States Face Showdown On Anti-Closed Shop Proposal

Government Gives Miners Retroactive Vacation Pay

Washington, D. C.—On the eve of the opening of contract negotiations between the Coal Mines Administration and United Mine Workers (AFL), announcement was made by the Government agency of a ruling in favor of retroactive vacation payments to the miners.

The Government's order was condemned immediately by the National Coal Association as "unwarranted and wholly illegal."

Capt. Walker N. Cullison, Coal Mines Administrator, in his order, extended to all soft coal pite under Government control the terms of an Illinois arbiters' award in a dispute involving retroactive pay for the vacation period.

The vacation payment is $100 a year, paid pro rata for each month of employment. The Government originally ruled that payment under this clause was to be made only to miners who had worked in the mines since they were seized May 22. The new order permits miners to draw pro rata vacation payments for the period from June, 1945, to May 22, 1946, regardless of whether they were employed in a mine when the Government took over the properties.

Meanwhile, considerable speculation was heard throughout the Capital regarding the possible outcome of the talks begun here between representatives of the miners and Capt. Cullison.

It was generally understood that the UMW spokesmen would insist upon a complete review of the entire current contract, with particular regard to wage revision.

Reports have circulated here have indicated that President Truman and his advisers are satisfied that new wage discussions are quite in order and that the entire contract should be re-studied in the light of increasing living costs since its negotiation.

Capital Newspaper Typos Granted 37-Cent Increase

Washington, D. C.—Spokesmen for Washington newspaper publishers and printers have agreed to a new contract providing a wage increase of 37 cents an hour—totaling $15 for a 35-hour week.

The settlement was approved by members of the Washington committee of Typographical Union No. 101 and its ratification was assured by leaders of that organization.

Starting November 12 under the proposed agreement, printers' scales will range from $1.37 to $1.87 per hour, depending on the shifts. The increase is limited to 20 percent of existing rates.

A total of 600 printers on the four Washington dailies, the Times-Herald, Tribune and Labor, weekly newspapers, are affected.

The union chief, Jesse H. Manbeck said elimination of a mandatory arbitration clause and an improved vacation clause were included in the new contract.

He predicted the settlement would help break the stalemate in negotiations with the Government Printing Office and commercial printing employers.

Of a check said the 1600 Government printers had been offered an increase of 22 cents an hour, making the rate $1.59, but that the printers had rejected the offer.

Commercial printing employers of 500 printers have offered a 34 cents an hour increase, upping the hourly rate to $1.87. The 500 job printers have rejected the offer.

Elmer Brown, vice president of the International Typographical Union, who has been negotiating for the local with the Graphic Arts Association, employer organization, is expected to return to Washington for further negotiations next week, Manbeck said.

The newspaper printers originally sought a $3.20 per hour day scale for the shift. This was later modified to $2.50 an hour. The present rates are $2.25, $2.37 and $2.11 per hour. The new scale will be $2.50, $2.24 and $2.49 an hour.

Rent Controls Spread Over 88 New Areas As House Shortage Grows More Acute

Washington, D. C.—Declaring the housing shortage is growing more acute," the OPA extended to 88 new areas rent control regulations. These areas contain an estimated population of 3,500,000.

The latest action of the OPA in the housing field means that areas with a total of 100,000,000 will be under rent controls. A figure well beyond the wartime peak of 95,000,000. The rental areas under control are spread over 29 States.

One OPA official said the administration "must only ignore to hold the line on rents but will expand it."

Earlier this month President Truman and Paul Porter, OPA chief, said rent controls would eliminate need for building.

Freed of controls by recent orders were all types of radios, electric refrigerators, kitchenware, glassware, lamps, many small electrical appliances, all clocks, phonographs, home machines and numerous other items.

Union Label Evokes Praise Of Officials In Missouri

St. Louis, Mo.—Warns tribute to the world contributions of the American Federation of Labor, in skills and in setting the world's working standards, was contained in an address by Gov. Phil M. Donnelly at an exposition staged here by the AFL Union Label Trades Department.

Reviewing the long strides made by organized labor over a period of years, Governor Donnelly said:

"Collective bargaining was not won overnight. But now it is an acknowledged principle in our industrial life. Labor stands knee-deep in industry now represent millions of our fellow citizens. Their rights are recognized under law. The right of workers in industry to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing is freely recognized. Problems affecting the welfare and health of those employe in private industry, including wages, hours, working conditions and other questions, are considered and determined between management and labor, meeting together as equals.

"These rights should be protected and preserved. Free collective bargaining should be the cornerstone of our economic policy in this country, now and for all time in the future.

"It is far too much to say that without the complete and wholehearted support of labor during the war, victory could not have been won. The record of labor in the war period remains as the greatest industrial production in history. The total labor force in this country, excluding agricultural workers, increased from 37,000,000 in 1940, to almost 44,000,000 in 1944. Wartime manpower mobilization was enormously successful, and made possible the great war effort. The ships, the equipment and supplies built by the hands of our workers forces, overwhelmed our enemies.

"Labor worked with management to the end that our nation might have the greatest production job the world has ever seen. Yet the United States was the only major nation in the war which did not resort to some kind of national service law. Our labor worked voluntarily for victory and won it.

Mayor A. P. Kaufman, welcoming the delegates to St. Louis, stressed the significance of the union label on American products.

"The label is, first of all, that the product is American, that it is not made by cheap or slave labor in some foreign country, but that it has had its origins to be in a factory where health and sanitary conditions are maintained in high order, conducive to the well-being of the employe. The label, in the hands of our wives guarantees that the product has not been touched by the hands of a child, under the age of sixteen, that has been stunted by laboring indoors at a tender age.

"And finally, the union label is our assurance that the product is the work of hands that have been subscribed to a high standard of skill, and who have joined together for the mutual benefit and welfare of benefits which are shared by workers the nation over, both within and without the ranks of organized labor."

Teamsters Warn Own Unions They Oppose Wildcat Strikes

Indianapolis, Ind.—Stern warning that wildcat strikes had become a menace to the welfare of our union member unions of the International Teamsters Union (AFL), in an article published in the current issue of the International's magazine, "International Teamster." The article said in part:

"Some members of this organization believe that strike benefits are automatic and that the duty of the union is to quit work and the International begins paying them. These members are the greatest enemy of this organization to their discomforts after discontinuing themselves from the payrolls.

"To receive strike benefits a strike must be authorized by the International. But before the question is even referred to the membership for approval, several specific steps must be taken by the local union, the most important of which is the secret ballot of the membership. Unless a strike is approved by a two-thirds vote, the International cannot sanction it. The preliminary steps to a strike are clearly set forth in the International constitution, which governs the action of all local unions.

"Once the International approves the strike, the sky is the limit. No expense will be spared to win it.

"Wildcat strikes are a national menace. They are an invitation to inflation and depression. They must be curtailed or the nation will sink into chaos and organized labor will perish."

OPA Dissolves 1,642 Local Boards; Serves Dismissal Notice On 10,000

Washington, D. C.—The Office of Price Administration throughout the nation took a deep bow toward its exit from the wartime price picture with announcement here of the dissolution of all 1,642 local price control boards.

At the same time announcement was made by OPA Chief Paul Porter that:

1. The duties performed by the local volunteer boards will be carried on by the regular staffs of the local OPA area offices.

2. More than 10,000 paid clerks and other supervisory workers in the district offices are being given a 30-day dismissal notice.

This will reduce the OPA field force by nearly one-third.

Members of the American Federation of Labor in recent weeks had demanded removal of wage and price controls in support of the nation's economy.

Porter told newsmen that the removal of controls from thousands of commodities recently left so few price items that the local boards no longer had a function to perform. He said the local boards in the slightly greater than one-third of the communities where they were without pay during the war and since in the rationing programs. The AFL was represented on all these boards.

He estimated the local volunteer boards had helped save the nation "about 117 billion dollars in the cost of the war alone, if we were to attribute to the same degree as in World War I."

He estimated the board helped save "the American people 85 billion dollars on their living costs."

The government is now handing most of the price control job back to American citizens," Porter said.

At the war time peak in July, 1945, just before most rationing ended, there were 5,665 local price and rationing boards. Porter estimated that more than 43,000 volunteers still were serving on them. Some 225,000 served at the peak.

PLUMBING FIXTURES UP

Washington, D. C.—OPA has allowed manufacturers of enameled cast iron plumbing fixtures to add a 5 percent increase in their ceiling prices. The higher cost of bathtubs, sinks, lavatories and other fixtures is expected to be passed on to the consumers. This is the third boost which the OPA has granted on plumbing fixtures this year.

Housing Loans to Veterans Aggregate $2,060,000,000

Washington, D. C.—Announcement was made by the Veterans Administration that since V-J Day 286,700 ex-servicemen have borrowed $2,060,000,000 in home loans under the GI Bill of Rights.

It said that more than 14,600 veterans are obtaining loans each week aggregating $75,000,000. Government guarantees of almost half the total was guaranteed.

VA placed the current average loan at just $5,000. This, however, includes loans for home alterations and improvements and for purchase of farms. The average "selling price" of veterans' housing.

So far, it said, only 42 foreclosures have occurred.

Meanwhile, Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt has recommended $2,000,000,000 Government loan to build 30,000 porcelain enamel homes for veterans in Chicago, the National Housing Administration announced.

The proposal was one of several recommended by Wyatt for Reconstruction Finance Corporation assistance. Loans recommended totaled $54,000,000.

Other Government power to speed erection of veterans' housing included:

Issuance by President Truman of an emergency proclamation suspending import tariffs on lumber.

Granting by Wyatt of a bonus to raise the ceiling prices of kiln dried all nails produced above their yearly quota. The bonus amounts to about $20 a thousand. The ceiling on nails averages $83 a ton.

President Truman's proclamation authorized Secretary Snyder to permit "importation free of duty of any articles" Wyatt "deems necessary for the fabrication of home products" for construction of "housing accommodations."

JOSEPH KENNAN CHOSEN ARBITER IN FILM DISPUTE

Hollywood, Calif.—Joseph Keenan, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor (AFL), for 11 years and one of the leading figures at the recent AFL convention, has been selected by film labor groups as permanent arbiter in settling jurisdictional disputes between AFL unions in the screen industry.

He was chosen by a committee representing the Conference of Studio Unions, its rival International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and the Screen Actors Guild. They agreed on a tentative of $25,000.

Green Urges Workers To Get Out Vote and Insure Victory

Washington, D. C.—One of the most dangerous issues hurled in the face of organized labor—the anticlosed shop amendment—will be placed before the voters of three States, Nebraska, South Dakota and Arizona, in the November 5 elections.

Anticlosed shop amendments to their constitutions have been adopted so far only by Florida and Arkansas.

On the same day voters in Massachusetts will decide whether to require labor unions to issue public financial reports.

Citizens of California will decide also whether to establish a fair employment practices act which would make it unlawful for employers to discriminate against any person because of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry.

AFL President William Green and other AFL leaders have led a determined fight for defeat of the anticlosed shop amendments and rejection of candidates who sponsor such measures.

Mr. Green has issued repeated appeals to workers in areas where anti-labor issues are being pressed to "get out the votes" and to "meet decisively these challenges raised by your enemies."

Fights over prohibiting the closed shop have occurred in a number of States, usually in agricultural areas.

Under a closed shop, only workers in a plant must belong to a union or lose their jobs. The anticlosed shop proposals usually state that the right to work shall not be denied because of membership or nonmembership in a labor organization.

The amendments in Florida and Arkansas were approved on the same day, November 7, 1944. The question of their legality has not yet been settled in the courts.

In the Florida case, the United States Supreme Court announced it couldn't rule on whether the amendment violates the Federal Constitution until the Florida State court says what the provision means. The matter now is in the State courts.

The Arkansas amendment does not in itself outlaw the closed shop, but only permits legislation for that purpose. To date, no such legislation has been passed.

Besides the Florida and Arkansas constitutional amendments, several States have laws relating to the closed shop. The South Dakota legislature, in addition to voting to submit the issue of a constitutional amendment to the voters, passed a law on February 17, 1945, prohibiting future closed shop contracts.

In Colorado, any closed shop agreement must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the workers; in Wisconsin, by a two-thirds vote, and in Kansas, by a simple majority.

As for requiring unions to issue public financial reports—the issue up to Massachusetts voters—South Dakota and Arkansas now have such laws. Texas requires unions to show their financial records to representatives of the Attorney General's office and to inspectors of the State Industrial Commission. Florida, Minnesota and Wisconsin require unions to report to their own members.

Three States, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, have fair employment laws of the type Californians will vote on.

98% Of Canceled War Contracts Settled At About 10 Cents On Dollar

Washington, D. C.—Settlement has been made to 98 percent of the war contracts canceled by the Government, as a cost of about 10 cents on the dollar, the Director of Contract Settlements revealed in a report to Congress.

Roger L. Putman, the director, said the total had been settled by his office, including the Contract Settlement Appeal Board, he merged with the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion. At present the office is a separate establishment, though it works under OWMR.

Putman said a total of $37,743,000,000 in claims and inventory of $65,300,000,000 had been terminated by the Government as of September 30, 1946. These, he said, $31,386, have been a saving of $6 billion dollars, or 90 percent of the total, for an average cost of $5,000,000,000. The director estimated that $4,000,000,000 will be required to consummate the cases still pending.

AFL TRIO IN GERMANY TO STUDY UNION SETUP

Berlin, Germany.—On invitation of Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, three leading representatives of the American Federation of Labor arrived here October 25 to begin a six-week tour of Germany to study the development of the country's new labor movement.

The group included William C. Doherty of Washington, D. C., a vice president of the AFL, and president of the National Association of Letter Carriers; Israel Feinberg of New York, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Union and Anton Jacob of Detroit, international representative of the International Brotherhood of Meat Cutters Union.

"Our study will be concerned solely with the democratic development of the German unions," Mr. Doherty told newsmen, "and we will give advice to German union leaders whenever it is requested. We are not here to talk about workers' wages and hours."